Deep Sea Mining

1424. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what fresh activities if any, is Government proposing for deep sea mining so as to obtain optimal benefits from the ocean resources within our continental shelf area; and

(b) whether Government have obtained access to latest technology for deep sea mining, from Multinational companies, either through licensing on Joint Venture agreements etc?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Government has initiated design and development of a seabed mining system capable of operating up to water depth of 6000 m, in phases. In first phase, design and development of shallow bad mining system has been taken up.

(b) Technology for deep sea mining is still under development in various parts of the world.

Accident on Konkan Railway

1425. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rail accident on Konkan Railway on 22nd June, 2003 brought out certain disturbing practices on this new railway network of the country;

(b) whether track patrolling was not being done on this railway; and

(c) whether chart of passengers after the accident was not furnished by railway authorities to the passengers' relatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Round the clock track patrolling was being done at vulnerable locations as per extant instructions.

(c) No, Sir. Charts of reserved coaches were furnished.

Eunuchs in trains

1426. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that eunuches are freely entering in the reserved compartments and harassing the passengers by demanding money in almost all Express/Mail trains thus threatening the security of the passengers; and

(b) if so, steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Some instances of eunuchs entering in the reserved compartments have come to notice. Regular drives are being conducted by ticket checking staff against the menace of unauthorized persons including eunuchs in reserved compartments in association with Railway Protection Force personnel and Government Railway Police so that passengers are not inconvenienced.

Hapur-Moradabad Rail Route

1427. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to lay down double line on Hapur-Moradabad rail route; if so, the time schedule and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Railways are aware that passenger trains and goods trains both run late by several hours due to single railway line there resulting in undue delay in the transportation of goods; and